

TO: GreenStep Committee Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: November 16, 2018
RE: Meeting Notice
Wednesday, November 28, 2018
4:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
La Crescent City Hall

AGENDA

1. Meeting minutes – August 29, 2018 & October 10, 2018.
2. New members appointed – Janelle Ramaker and John Lambert.
3. CERT's seed grant update.
4. 2019 general fund budget update. Items include establishment of a contracted Sustainability Coordinators position and participation in the Regional Blufflands Coalition. Charlie Handy with La Crosse County is scheduled to present at the December 10th City Council meeting about the Regional Blufflands Coalition.
5. Tree City USA – 2018 designation update.
6. Arbor Day – April 26, 2019. Tree planting at Veterans Park is the proposed 2019 Arbor Day activity.
7. Bird City USA designation – information included. We are working to finalize a Natural Resource Advisory Group. Jim Nissen has agreed to serve as Chairperson of the group. Additional members of the Natural Resource Advisory Group include – Phyllis Feiock, Randy Urich, Jason Ludwigson, and Ruth Nissen. We are seeking members of the GreenStep Committee to serve on the group.
8. 2019 MnDOT Landscape Partnership Project – participation in meeting(s) with MnDOT to select a plan for the 2019 project.
9. Pollinator resolution included – reviewed at meeting.
10. Solar project review/update on City and School District projects.
11. Solar thermal at aquatic center. 2019 project. Process to obtain proposals for the project.
12. Drive electric corridor. Information included. FYI - the new Best Western Plus will have an electric charging station. Discussion regarding replacement of the current City bus with a new electric bus in 2020.
13. PACE funding.
14. School District's GreenTeam.
15. Recycling.
16. Additional pollinator areas.
17. Additional discussion items/next agenda/next meeting date.
18. Adjournment.

Please call me at 895-4668, or e-mail me, if you will not be able to attend, or have questions or need more information.

Thank you.

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TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
GreenStep Committee Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: August 30, 2018
RE: Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2018

The La Crescent GreenStep Committee met at 4:30 pm, on Wednesday, August 29, 2018, in the conference room at the La Crescent City Hall. The following members were present: Jim Nissen, Brian Krenz, Don Smith, Jason Ludwigson, and Bill Waller.

1. The GreenStep Committee reviewed the three proposals that were received in response to the City's request for proposals to design, build, and maintain solar installations at City facilities. The facilities include the following: the City Maintenance facility, the Animal Rescue building, the City's Michael E. Albrecht Water Treatment building, the La Crescent Public Library building, and the La Crescent Aquatic facility. It was the consensus of the GreenStep Committee to recommend that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by Ideal Energies. The GreenStep Committee is recommending that solar not be installed on the Public Library building, as that facility is identified as a redevelopment site in the City's Downtown Vision and Strategic Plan. The GreenStep Committee referenced the following findings:
 - A. Ideal Energies proposal requires no upfront expenditure by the City. Consequently there is no need for the City to issue debt in order to finance the proposed solar improvements.
 - B. Ideal Energies proposal provides a yearly return to the City for a portion of the energy costs generated by the improvement.
 - C. Ideal Energies proposal affords the City the opportunity to purchase the solar improvements after year 13 for a \$1. In the proposal where the City finances the solar improvements, the City is still paying off debt on the project until 15 years at the earliest, and in one instance up to 22 years before the debt is retired. In addition, the 15 – 22 year time frame does not account for the interest charges associated with issuing the debt to finance the improvement.
2. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 pm.

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
GreenStep Committee Members
FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator
DATE: October 10, 2018
RE: Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2018

The La Crescent GreenStep Committee met at 4:30 pm, on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, in the conference room at the La Crescent City Hall. The following members were present: Brian Krenz, Reid Smith, John Lambert, Angie Boettcher, Janelle Ramaker, and Bill Waller.

1. It was the consensus of the members present to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2018 GreenStep meeting as presented.
2. An update was provided regarding the CERT's seed grant project. The project is approximately 50% complete, with the balance of the project to be completed by the end of 2018.
3. The committee was informed of items in the proposed 2019 City general fund budget, including funding for a contracted sustainability coordinators position and participation in the Regional Blufflands Coalition.
4. Tree City USA designation for 2018 will be completed and submitted, and the proposed 2019 Arbor Day tree planting project was reviewed with the committee.
5. The pollinator resolution was reviewed. It was agreed that the City would inventory the chemicals that are used in both the maintenance department and the golf course, with this information to be presented at a future greenstep meeting.
6. The committee was informed that the City Council approved the agreement with Ideal Energies to install solar at four City buildings. An update was provided regarding the City's subscription to the Rollingstone community solar garden, with that facility to be in operation by May of 2019.
7. Information was provided regarding the potential for the school district to install solar on school facilities.
8. The committee discussed the solar thermal project that is planned for the aquatic center in 2019, and the b-3 bench marking data for utility usage at City buildings.
9. It was agreed that the following items would be added to the agenda for a greenstep meeting in November: school districts greenteam, PACE funding, recycling, additional pollinator areas, and the drive electric corridor.
10. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm.



35246 US Hwy 19 #299
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
(727) 733-0762
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Why should your municipality get involved and become a Bird City U.S.A?

Birds and Wildlife

First and foremost, it's simply the right thing to do. In addition to the ongoing threat of loss of habitat, staggering numbers of birds are directly killed due to a number of other human-related causes, and they need our help.

The Economy

Protecting and helping birds is not only the right thing to do, it is also good for the economy. Birds are invaluable as controllers of insect pests, as pollinators of crops, and dispersers of native plant seeds, and they also generate tremendous economic revenues through the pastimes of bird feeding and bird watching.

Citizen Pride

Pride is sometimes a less tangible benefit, but gaining and retaining Bird City U.S.A. recognition is an award to the managers, volunteers, board members and others who work on behalf of better care of a community. Non-involved citizens, too, often share a sense of pride that theirs is a Bird City U.S.A.. This may translate to better care of habitat areas on private property or a willingness to volunteer in the future.



Public Image & Recognition

A community's public image is very important. Being a Bird City U.S.A. helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business. The Bird City U.S.A. signs at community entrances tell visitors that here is a community that cares about its environment, birds, and community. It is also an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better here.

Community Engagement & Education

Education begins with discussion of the requirements and getting organized to apply for Bird City U.S.A. status. In turn, this can set in motion aid from a variety of professionals in the form of technical advice, literature, films, and other assistance. Presentation of the Bird City U.S.A. award offers excellent publicity opportunities. This results not only in satisfaction for the individuals involved and their families, but also provides one more way to reach large numbers of people with information about birds.

The Bird City U.S.A. program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for municipalities and communities throughout the United States.

Getting designated as a Bird City U.S.A. is fun, educational and provides enormous benefits that include: environmental improvement, economic benefits, citizen pride, public relations, citizen pride, recognition & publicity, and community engagement and education.



Program Process & Requirements



Requirement #1

Creation of a Natural Resource Advisory Group

Create a Natural Resource Advisory Group, if one does not presently exist, and designate one member of this group as chairperson. The chairperson is responsible for coordinating Bird City U.S.A. efforts and actions.

- Creation: Create a Natural Resource Advisory Group for your municipality consisting of no less than six regular members.
- Qualifications: No less than a majority of the members of the Natural Resource Advisory Group shall be residents of the municipality.
- Duties: The group's primary role should be to facilitate and encourage educational opportunities that lead to an informed citizenry on topics such as natural resources, ecosystems, open space, and natural corridors that provide habitat for migratory birds. The group should meet at least one time per year to coordinate, facilitate, and promote International Migratory Bird Day.

Requirement #2

Recognize International Migratory Bird Day

In its simplest form, International Migratory Bird Day is a one day celebration of migratory birds: their beauty, their amazing abilities, and the benefits they provide people. What exactly is International Migratory Bird Day?

- Create a declaration for your municipality declaring the importance of International Migratory Bird Day, bird conservation or protecting wildlife habitat.
This declaration should be clearly visible in a public location such as a town or city hall, or library.
- Host an annual event in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day
A community event or observance should be held on International Migratory Bird Day. Such events may include: hosting or coordinating a bird watching tour, coordinating a group nesting box effort, participation in a bird count, hosting an education workshop on bird identification.

When is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)?

IMBD officially takes place on the second Saturday in May of each year. However, we recognize that this date doesn't work well for all bird event and bird festival organizers, or for the migratory birds themselves. To the south, migratory birds have left, heading for breeding sites to the north. Farther north, the birds haven't arrived. To correct this problem while reminding groups that "every day is bird day" and that IMBD should be celebrated year-round, most U.S. events take place on any day between the months of March and May. We recommend that the Natural Resource Advisory Board select a day that is most appropriate given the climate that the municipality is in.

Requirement #3

Complete the Requirements of the Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary Program at one public municipally managed location

By Using the Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary Program as a guide, your landscapes will not only become a haven for birds and wildlife to enjoy, but will also reduce natural resource depletion, reduce waste and pollution problems while also improving the health of the landscape in an aesthetically-pleasing and cost-effective manner. Sustainable landscaping practices incorporate beautiful plants, shrubs, and trees and reduce maintenance costs, while at the same time protect the environment. Using sustainable landscape maintenance practices also makes good business sense, and saves money.

Bird City U.S.A. Application



☐ **Requirement #1 - Creation of a Natural Resource Advisory Group**

Create a Natural Resource Advisory Group and designate one member of this group as chairperson. The chairperson is responsible for coordinating Bird City USA efforts and actions. List group members below, listing the chairperson's name first on the list.

name	email	phone

☐ **Requirement #2 - Recognize International Migratory Bird Day**

In its simplest form, International Migratory Bird Day is a one day celebration of migratory birds, their beauty, their amazing abilities, and the benefits they provide people.

- ☐ Create a Declaration for your municipality stating the importance of International Migratory Bird Day. This declaration should be clearly visible in a public location such as a town or city hall or library.

- Include a photograph of the declaration displayed in a public location
- Include a copy of the declaration.

- ☐ A community event or observance should be held on International Migratory Bird Day. Such events may include: hosting a bird watching tour, coordinating a group nesting box effort, participation in a bird count, and/or hosting an education workshop on bird identification.

☐ **Requirement #3 – Complete the Requirements of the Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary Program at One Location**

By Using the Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary Program as a guide your landscapes will not only become a haven for birds and wildlife to enjoy, but will also reduce natural resource depletion, reduce waste, and pollution problems while also improving the health of the landscape in an aesthetically-pleasing and cost-effective manner.

The Bird City U.S.A Program is free for municipalities enrolled as ISC-Audubon Platinum Members. Platinum Membership fees include a one-time registration fee of \$250 (first year membership included), and then only \$100 annually. Maintaining Platinum Membership is required in order to retain The Bird City U.S.A. designation. To begin participation in the program mail, fax or email this application form with Platinum Membership (if applicable) and registration fee (check or credit card).

Municipality Name

Municipality Address



Name on Credit Card

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

RESOLUTION 09-18-26**RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY OF LA CRESCENT A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO ADOPT POLLINATOR PROJECTION PRACTICES**

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent values it's parks and open spaces, which contribute to La Crescent's quality of life and to La Crescent's Tourism Economy; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem and food system, providing essential pollination of plants in order to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruits; and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to an ongoing loss of habitat as a result of human land use practices, coupled with a simultaneous large-scale expansion of pesticide use by homeowners, landscapers, property managers, and farmers; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, local food production is needed to improve the health and food security of La Crescent residents and insect pollination is an essential component of local food production; and

WHEREAS, alternative land management practices are available that dramatically increase pollinator forage while decreasing maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the monetary and social cost of maintaining pollinator-friendly landscapes can be less expensive than the costs associated with maintaining chemically -treated monocrop landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota preempted any powers of local governments to regulate any and all matters concerning the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, many La Crescent residents and businesses are pledging to manage their land in a pollinator-friendly way;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED the city of La Crescent is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly community. The city celebrates policies and practices that protect and support pollinator health including:

1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee-Safe City by undertaking best management practices in the use of plantings and pesticides in all public places within the City.

2. The City shall refrain from the use of systemic pesticides on La Crescent City property including pesticides from the neonicotinoid family.
3. The City shall undertake its best efforts to plant flowers favorable to bees and other pollinators in the City's public spaces.
4. The City shall designate Bee-Safe areas in which future City plantings are free from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids.
5. The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to La Crescent residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.
6. The City shall publish a Bee-Safe City Progress Report on an annual basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Crescent urges all La Crescent property owners, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more pollinator-friendly by adopting practices including:

1. Committing to not use pesticides, including systemic insecticides, on their property;
2. Avoiding planting flowering plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
3. Discontinuing the sale of pesticides and plants that are treated with systemic insecticides;
and
4. Planting more pollinator forage on their property and organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices.

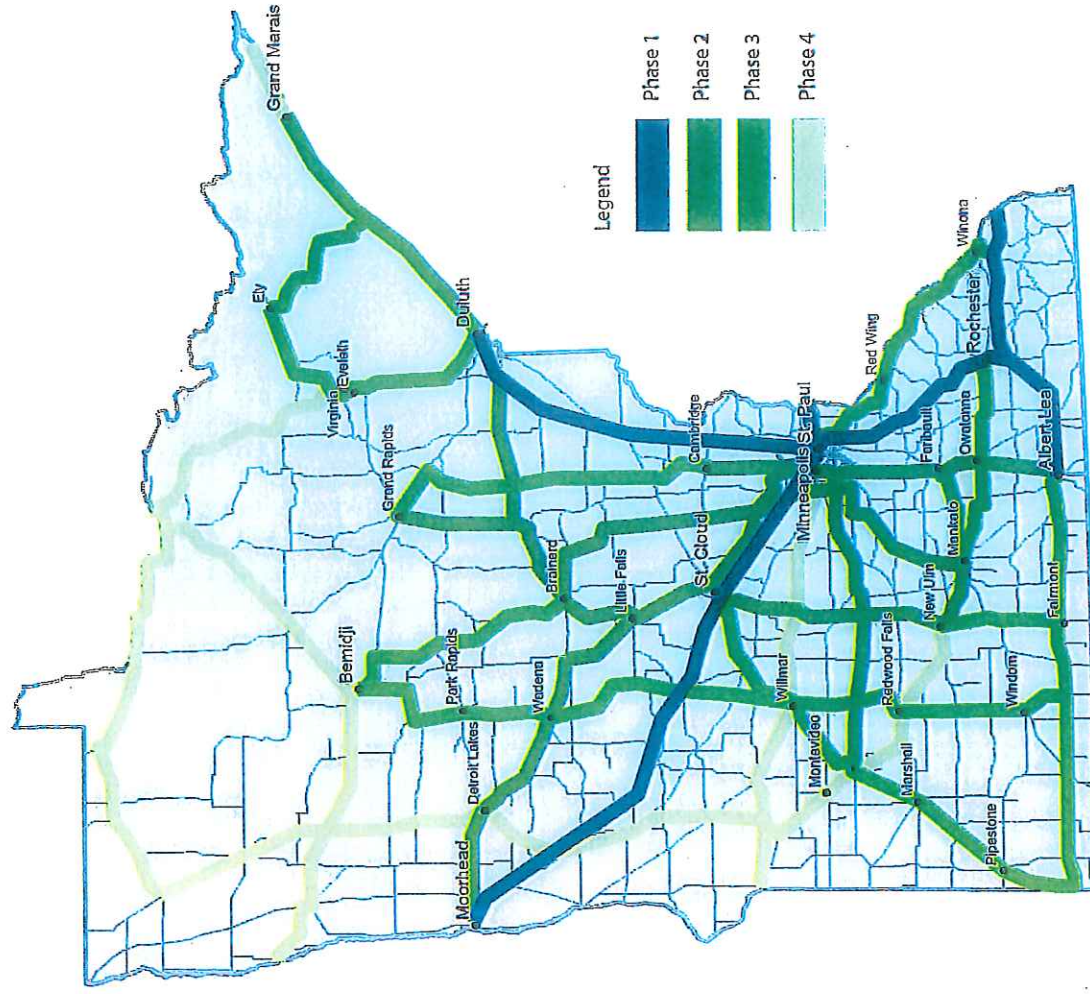
Capitalizing on the VW Settlement to Build out Infrastructure

Four 50 kW charging stations are installed along the Phase 1 corridor along I-35 in Duluth, Sturgeon Lake, Pine City, and Forest Lake

Additional 50 kW charging stations will be installed in St. Cloud, Fergus Falls, Moorehead, and Alexandria along I-94 by the end of 2018

The MPCA plan allows for 15% of the funding to be directed toward charging stations, with 90% directed toward DCFC

We see St. Paul to Rochester as the next logical corridor to build out.



Reduce air pollution from faulty VW diesel engines

School buses, large diesel vehicles are priorities of the spending plan for Minnesota's anticipated \$47 million in VW settlement funds.

What's the issue?

In 2016, the Volkswagen Corporation was caught violating emissions limits for its diesel engines in cars and SUVs. The federal government took VW to court and won a \$15 billion settlement, of which \$2.7 billion is to be shared among the states, territories and tribes; Minnesota's share is \$47 million. Governor Dayton designated the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to manage the settlement funds, which will be spent over 10 years on projects to offset the excess pollution from diesel vehicles.



The federal court settlement limits spending the funds on specific types of diesel vehicles and equipment, such as heavy-duty trucks, buses, locomotives, boats, airport equipment, and forklifts. The federal court requires that these vehicles be replaced with new vehicles or engines that produce far less pollution. The court allows states to use up to 15% of the funds for electric-vehicle charging infrastructure.

States must submit spending plans that meet court-established requirements. These plans must be approved by the court-appointed trustee, Wilmington Trust in Delaware, before a state can begin making grants. All grants will be made on a reimbursement basis. Third-party aggregators (that would, for example, gather several applicants together into a single, large grant request) are allowed.

Minnesota's plan

The plan has three phases. During a "pause" after each phase, the plan can be revised to meet demand and to accommodate any new technologies:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Phase 1: 2018-2019 | \$11.75 million (25% of overall funds) |
| • Phase 2: 2020-2023 | \$23.5 million (50% of overall funds) |
| • Phase 3: 2024-2025 | \$11.75 million (25% of overall funds) |

Settlement funds in Phase 1 will be channeled through five programs. The grant percentages and dollar amounts for Phase 1 are *targets*, because the demand for replacing these vehicles is unknown. If demand is higher than anticipated in Phase 1, the MPCA will request additional dollars from the trustee to fund all qualified Phase 1 grant applications.

Minnesota VW Settlement Plan, Phase 1 (calendar 2018-19)

MN grant categories (2018-2019)	Settlement category	Eligible fuels	2018-2019 grants (Phase 1)	
			Targeted percent	Targeted dollar amount
School bus replacement program	School buses	All (diesel, propane, natural gas, electric)	20%	\$2,350,000
Clean heavy-duty on-road vehicles program	Transit buses, class 4-8 trucks	All (diesel, propane, natural gas, electric)	35%	\$4,112,500
Clean heavy-duty off-road equipment program	Switcher locomotives, ferries, tugs, port cargo handling equipment, ocean-going vessel shore power, Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)	All (diesel, propane, natural gas, electric)	15%	\$1,762,500
Heavy-duty electric vehicle program	School buses, transit buses, trucks, airport ground support equipment, forklifts	Electric	15%	\$1,762,500
Electric vehicle charging stations	Zero-emission vehicle infrastructure	Not applicable	15%	\$1,762,500
	Total:			\$11,750,000

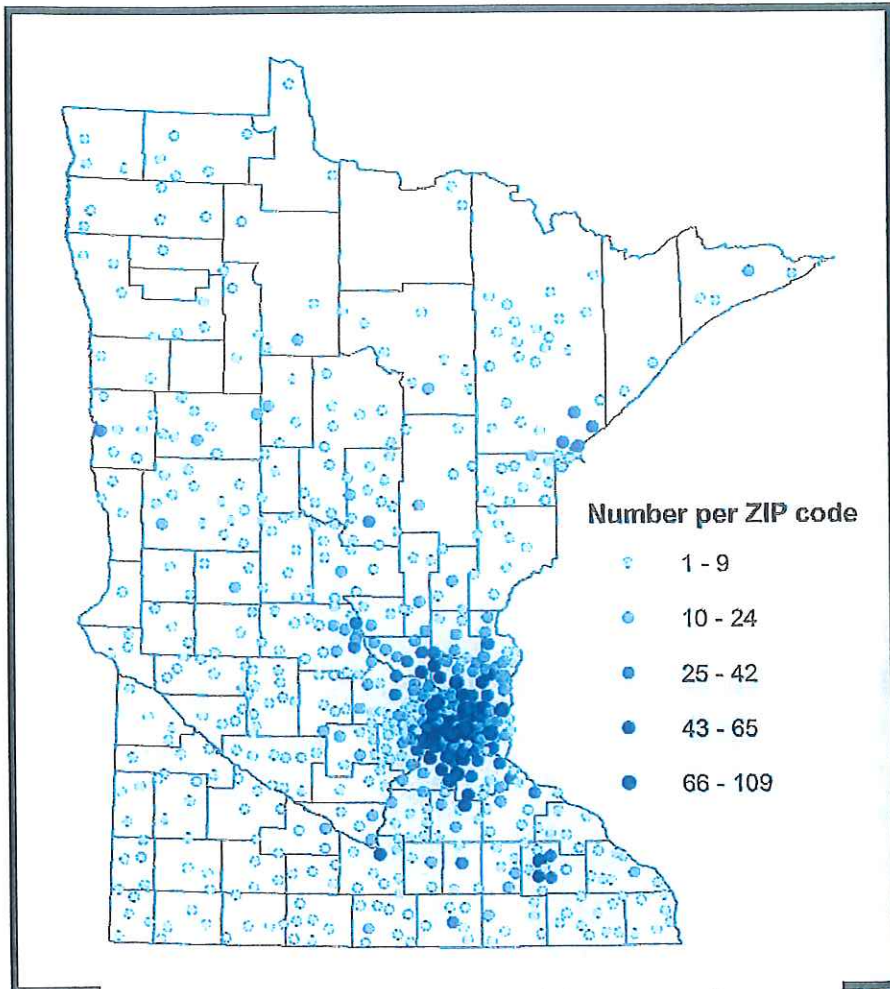
Once the trustee approves the plan, the MPCA will post requests for proposals (RFPs) with details on each grant type, including criteria to be used in evaluating proposals. RFPs will meet court requirements and plan's overall goals. Once RFPs are posted, broad public and stakeholder outreach will get the word out. Grant application forms will be streamlined, and technical assistance will be available. Barring any unforeseen issues, we anticipate that grants can be made within calendar year 2018.

Public input

To develop a plan that benefits all Minnesotans and reflects the needs and desires of people across the state, the MPCA solicited input statewide for **more than a year**. We:

- Held nine public meetings around the state
- Held four stakeholder meetings on technical aspects and stakeholder needs
- Kept thousands of interested people up to date via regular emails bulletins
- Received more than 800 online responses to surveys and more than 300 written comments
- Maintained a web site and posted new information and data frequently

Violating VW diesel vehicles registered in Minnesota by zip code



Source: MN Department of Public Safety vehicle registration data

Sixty percent of the violating VW vehicles in Minnesota were registered in the Twin Cities area and 40% in Greater Minnesota. Thus, 60% of funds will be targeted to grants in the Twin Cities area and 40% to grants in Greater Minnesota.

As required by the federal court, the plan also takes into account communities statewide that are disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

While a wide range of ideas were brought forth, the main priorities Minnesotans expressed were:

- Support the growth of electric vehicles
- Include both Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities metropolitan area
- Protect vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly
- Achieve significant emissions reductions
- Reduce exposures in high pollution areas and support public health
- Consider many fuel types
- Consider many vehicle and equipment types
- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
- Look to the long-term future of Minnesota's transportation sector
- Strive for cost-effectiveness

For more information

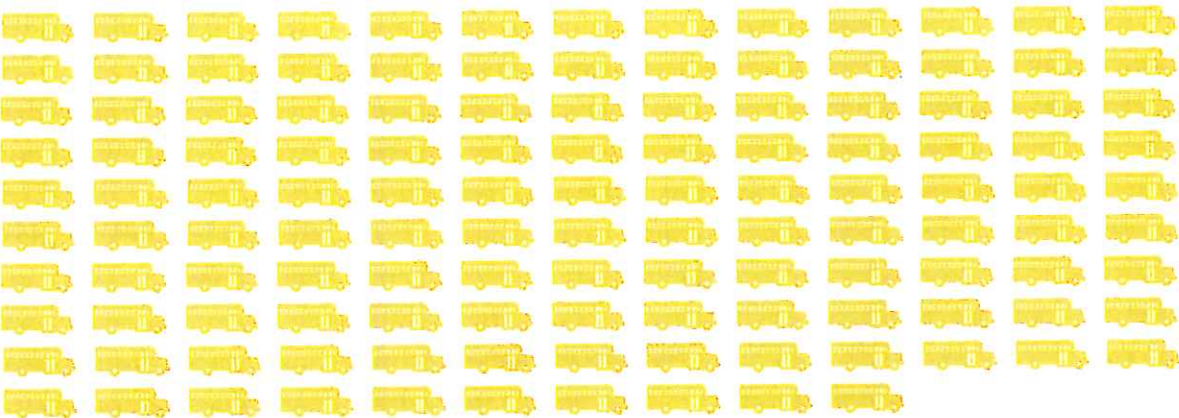
Greta Gauthier, MPCA Legislative Director

greta.gauthier@state.mn.us

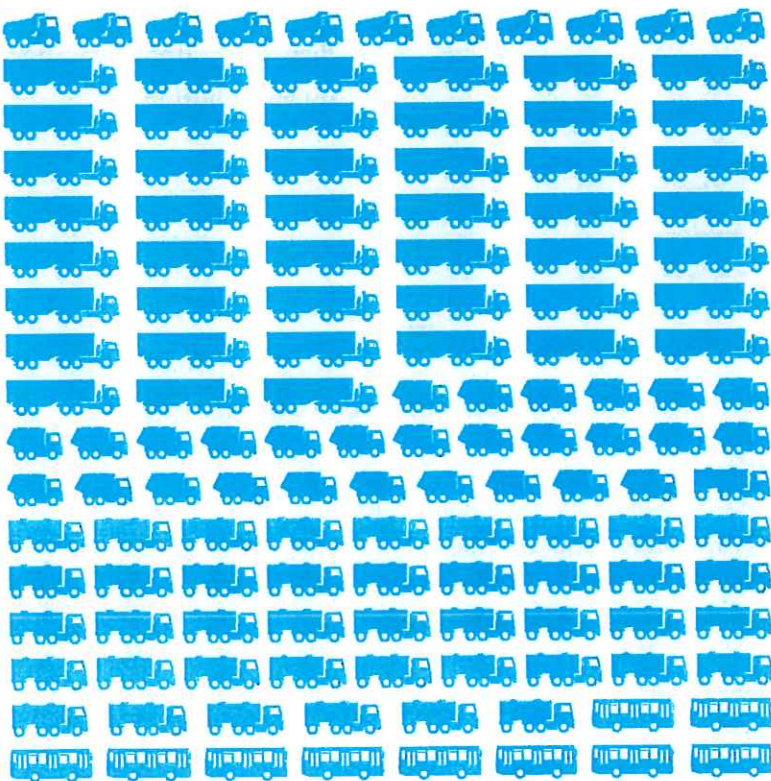
Office: 651-757-2031 • Mobile: 651-338-8955

Out with the old: \$11,750,000 for new clean vehicles

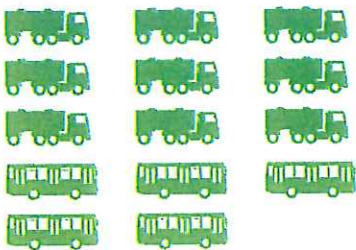
127 school buses



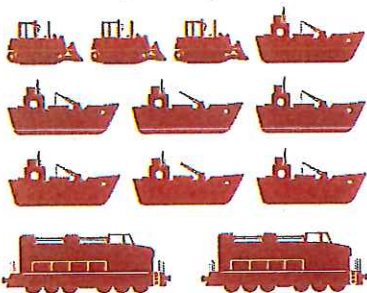
137 trucks and transit buses



14 heavy-duty electric



12 heavy-duty off-road



Plus: 65 new electric vehicle charging stations

